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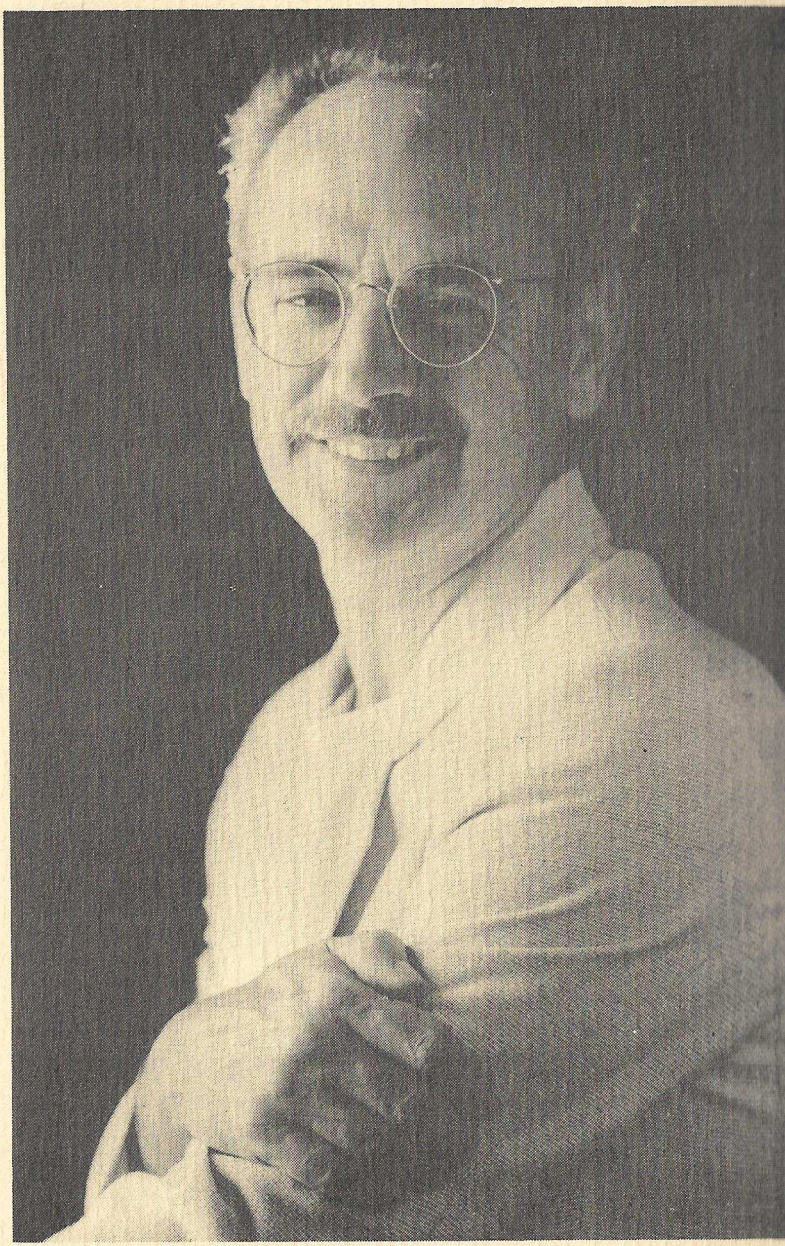

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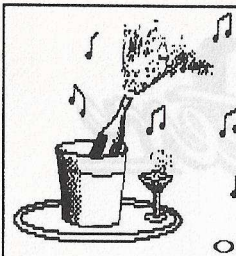

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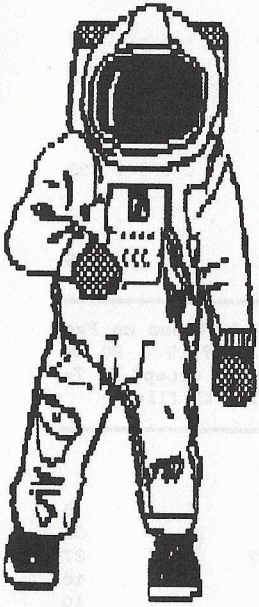

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A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN...

Well, was it OK? Have a good time? Sorry if you had a hangover on Sunday morning, but everything has its price. I hope it won't put you off coming along in the future. If you have any specific complaints, don't hesitate to get in touch with next year's chairman. 'bye.

And for those of you actually reading this at the convention...

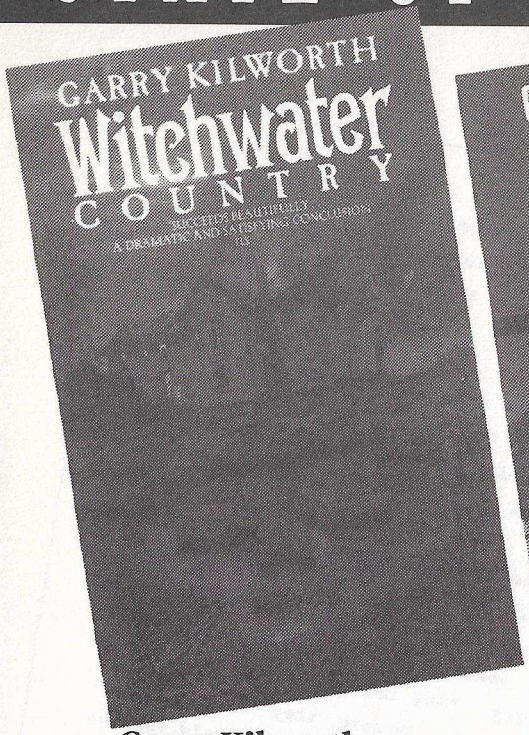
Welcome to NOVACON 18. It doesn't seem so long ago that Rog asked me to be chairman of this convention. He caught me at a quiet moment in the bar last year, but of course I said "No!". Still, he can be persuasive at times and so I said OK, but only if I could have my ideal committee: Greg and Linda, Martin, Bernie and Rog himself. I thought I was safe with this ploy, as I knew what they would say when asked. Bernie..."Not again." Martin..."**********!" Greg..."Get out of here!" Linda..."No way." It just goes to show, eh? Because they all said yes. Naturally, I assumed they were drunk, but they still said yes the next morning. They were even enthusiastic about it. With such stalwarts behind me (doing all the work) I reckoned we could get a pretty good convention going.

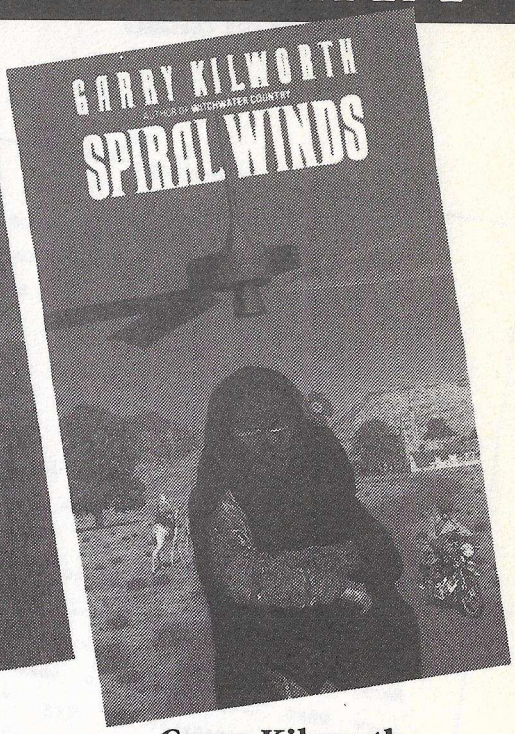
We lost no time in approaching Garry Kilworth as Guest of Honour. Garry is an excellent writer. Acclaimed by fans and critics alike, he deserves a far wider audience than that which he enjoys. My thanks to him for agreeing to be the man in the spotlight. Thanks also to the rest of the committee and all the numerous people who have helped to put the con together.

Have a good time.

Tony Berry

STATE-OF-THE-ART





Garry Kilworth
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Garry Kilworth
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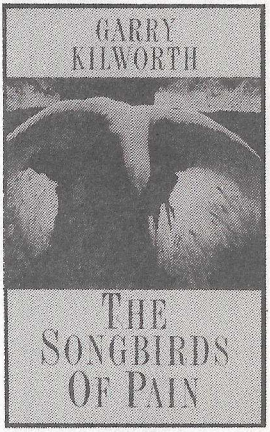

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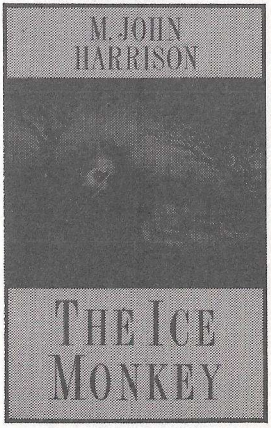
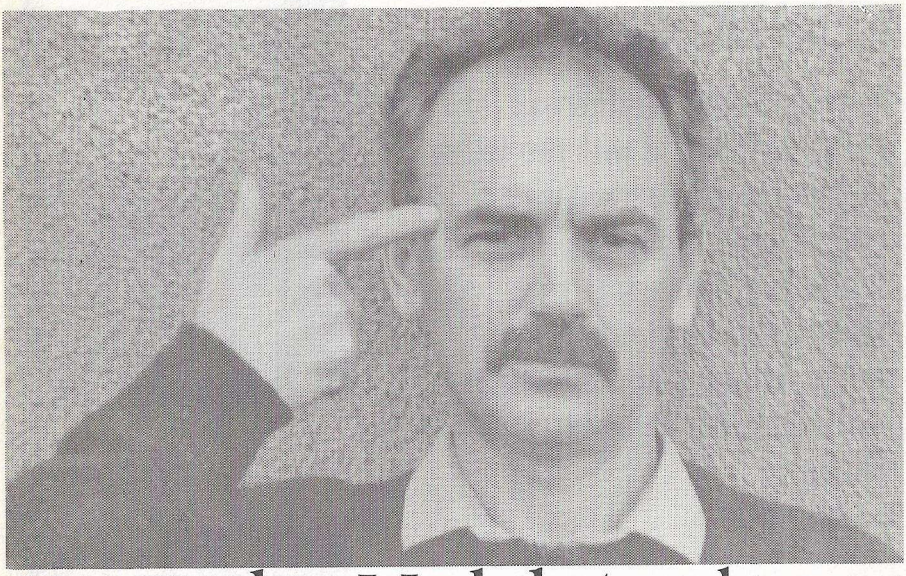


UNWIN HYMAN

GARRY KILWORTH THE IDEAS MAN



Rob Holdstock

If it's true that the origins of a writer's ideas, and the nature of the creative process, are a source of interest to readers, then you could do no better than to follow Garry Kilworth around, monitoring his every blink and every glance. Garry comes up with ideas *all* the time. He is a walking, breathing, living ideas factory. As Chris Evans described in his piece for one of the progress reports, once you know the man you can tell the precise moment at which "the beggar's getting an idea... look at him!" The moment of creativity is transparent. Whether talking or walking, he suddenly goes vague; his eyes narrow and his focus becomes distant. He leans back, or looks away, and slowly raises a cigarette to his lips, inhaling thoughtfully. (Now that he's given up smoking he just raises two fingers and makes odd little puffing sounds). I've seen this happen a daunting number of times (daunting because I speak as a writer who has had nine short stories ideas in as many years, whereas Garry gets that many while changing his socks). The most vivid and infuriating example of this was when he wandered away from the lunch table at my house. I found him in the kitchen staring through the window at the mature vine which sprawls over the garden wall there. I crept up behind him and tried to follow his gaze, to see

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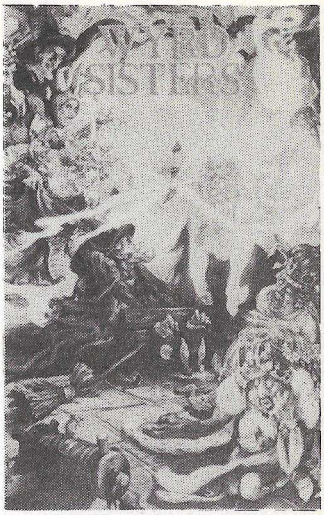

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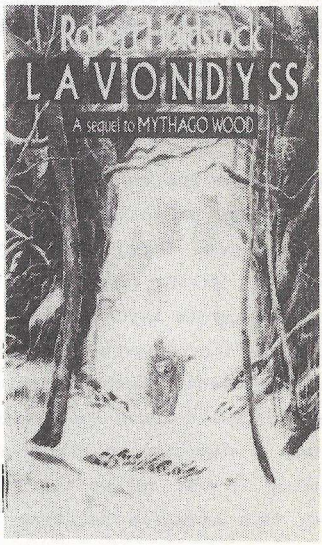


GOLLANCZ

what was, so to speak, 'stimulating his creative juices'. It seemed to be a bunch of grapes.

"Getting an idea, are we?", I asked sourly.

"Yep," he replied distractedly.

When, after several moments, he had said no more, I became a little annoyed. "They're *my* grapes, so I demand a share of the notion."

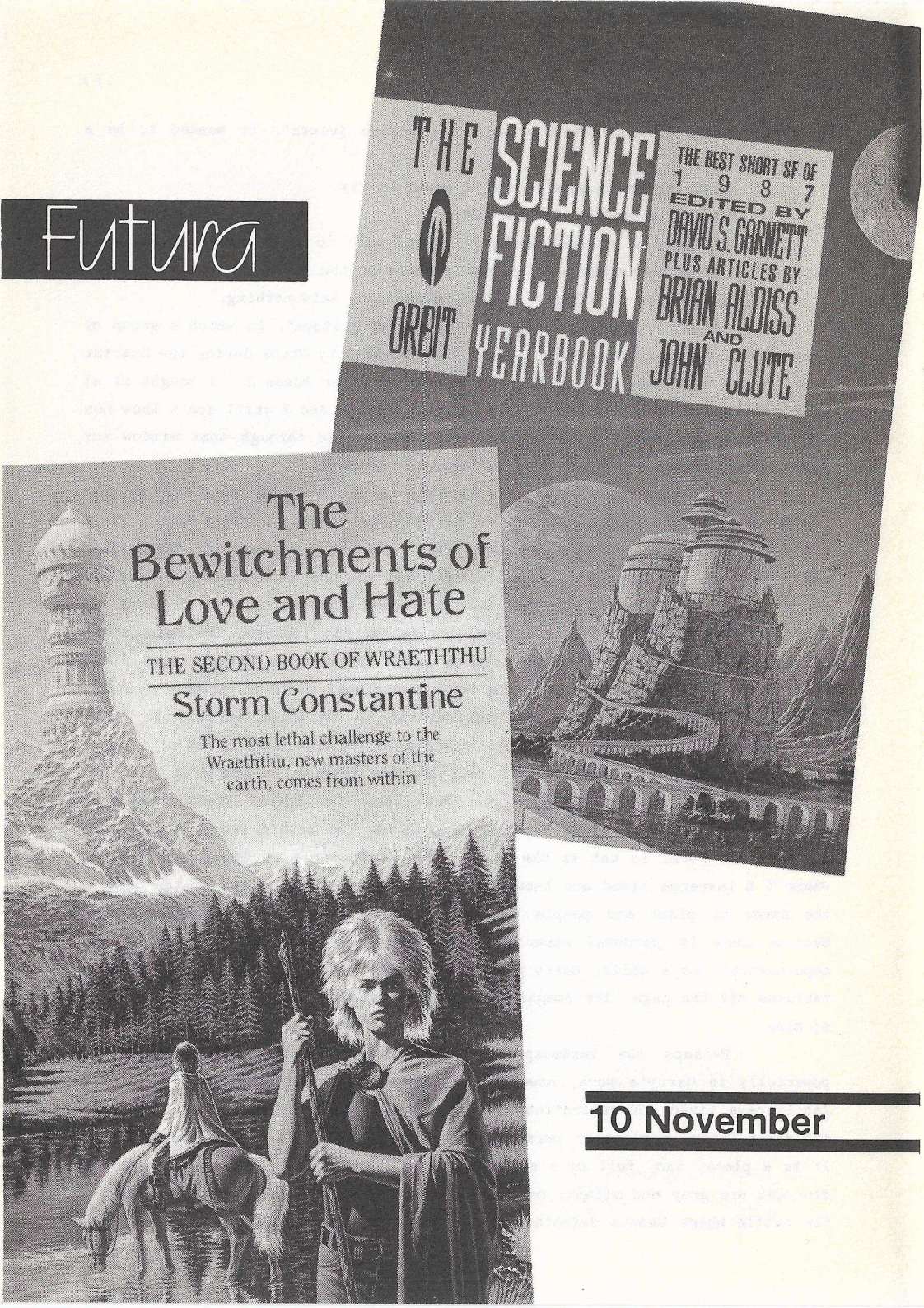
He laughed in a highly amused fashion; he said nothing.

The story became "On the Watchtower at Plataea", in which a group of time-travellers find themselves trapped in a Greek City State during the Spartan Wars. He had the temerity to offer it to me for *Other Edens 2*. I bought it at once and scoured it for grapes. There were no grapes. And I still don't know how the creative process in Garry works. (But I've stared through that window for hours, now, getting ideas for my novel *Vine On the Wall*).

An idea, of course, is nothing unless it is enriched by the experience of the author, and here too Garry holds a hand of trump cards. He is the most travelled man I know, and his novels and short stories are, more often than not, set against the exotic backgrounds of the countries in which he worked, first with the RAF and then with Cable and Wireless. His first novel, *In Solitary*, is an alien occupation novel set in the Philippines; the examination of the island society, with its fragile boats and complex ritual, completely transforms what could so easily be a very traditional piece of science fiction. In *The Night of Kadar*, although the setting is an alien world, the human characters are Arabic. *Split Second* - a marvellously evocative piece of fiction - is set on Cyprus: a modern boy's mind becomes trapped in the mind of a boy living in Cyprus in prehistoric times. More recently, *Spiral Winds* draws upon Garry's experiences in Aden and the Yemen during the crisis years of the mid-sixties. The novel is set in the Yemen, and particularly in those desert-lands where T E Lawrence lived and became legendary. The haunting feel of the desert, the sense of place and people is exhilaratingly drawn; and the menace too. Because here is *personal* experience informing the plot of a novel of the supernatural: as a child, Garry was lost in that desert for several days. Heat radiates off the page. The images shimmer like mirages. It is a favourite novel of mine.

Perhaps the landscape that features most dramatically and most powerfully in Garry's work, however, is that of Essex and Suffolk, where his family have lived for generations. It is in many places a bleak and flat land, endlessly windy, a place of marshes, stark copses, grey rivers and muddy dikes. It is a place, too, full of a sense of magic. Witchcraft still flourishes. The churches are grey and silent: one, at Canewden, looking out across the scene of the battle where Canute defeated Edmund Ironside. Garry lives across the bleak

Futura



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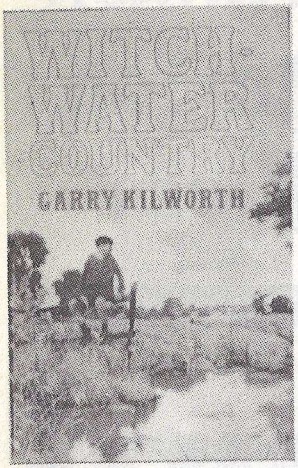
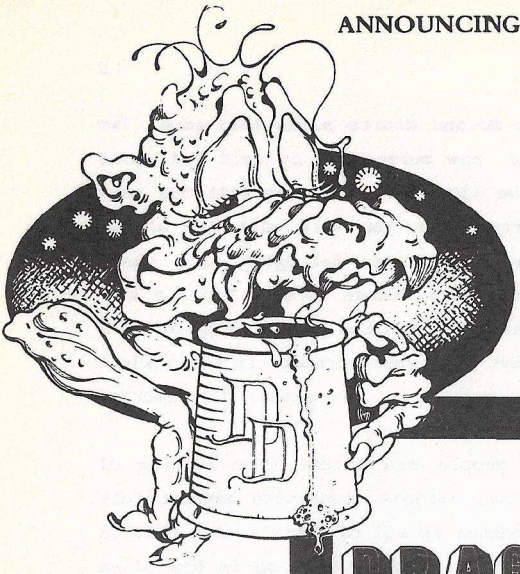


marsh, where a second church marks Ashingdon. Two old strongholds, now surmounted by cold and eerie churches. I love the place, but not with the same passion as Garry. When you walk with him across this landscape he *radiates* belonging, and deep-rootedness, and memory. Essex marshes flow in him. His sense of the place and its people, many of whom are long gone but who remain present in the dialect and in the faces and in the genes, is powerful indeed.

This sense of people and place, this feeling of *belonging*, of the intimate connection between folk and earth, resonates in all of Garry's work that is set on Planet Earth (perhaps less so in his alien environment stories where different joys of description and feeling abound), but that resonance is perhaps most effective in *Witchwater Country* and in the first section of *Gemini God*. *Witchwater Country* is simply a delight. It is set in 1952, in and around the saltmarshes of Essex, where a boy and his friends set out in search of legendary creatures called 'waterwitches'. 1952 was the year, you may remember, of elemental forces in that part of the country: fire, wind and then flooding, when the sea wall burst. Hundreds died, thousands were made homeless. Garry's family lived through it and though to read *Witchwater Country* is to read a thoroughly 'ripping yarn', it is also to read a great deal about the author himself, and he freely acknowledges this.

Garry's two most overtly science fiction novels are interesting inversions of each other. In *A Theatre of Timesmiths* he explores a society living hemmed-in at the bottom of a funnel in an immense landscape of ice. The prevailing phobia is claustrophobia. Conversely, his newly published novel *Cloudrock* (out in paperback in time for this convention, hopefully) is a staggering piece of agoraphobic imagination: here, the society lives on the top of a pinnacle of coral, thousands of feet figh and flat at the top. The sea through which this coral mountain grew has long since drained away. The dimly glimpsed and misty land below is a place of unknown terrors. Imperfectly-born children and felons are simply lobbed over the edge. Shadow, the main character, is born a mutant but allowed to survive - provided his existence is never acknowledged; eventually his death is required and he is forced to make the dizzying descent of Cloudrock to avoid murder. It is not a book for those with a fear of heights.



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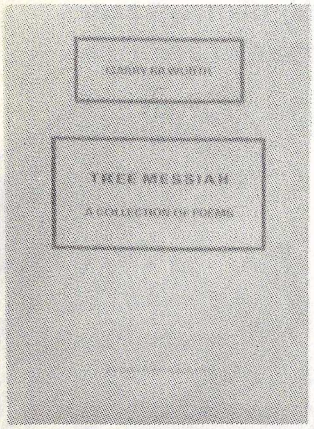
THE DRAGONHIKER'S GUIDE TO BATTLEFIELD COVENANT AT DUNE'S EDGE: ODYSSEY TWO

DAVID LANGFORD

Garry is, of course, a prolific short story writer. He has produced over one hundred (the first of which was called "Revolt of the Donkeys"... I think he should be *asked* about this), published nearly fifty, and been published in just about every magazine you can think of. (Watch out for a bizarre and wonderful story in *Omni*, called "The Filming of the Filming of the Making of Fitzcaraldo"). He has collected a handful of his pieces in *Songbirds of Pain*, a collection that has at its heart an obsession with the lengths of pain and denial that must be gone through in order to achieve creative vision. (One might be forgiven for thinking, after reading these stories, that Garry Kilworth's body should be a mass of self-inflicted scars and diseases - the creative process carved through screams and tears. In fact, he just watches grapes...).

One of my favourite Kilworth stories is "Hogfoot Right and Bird-hands". This piece lay untouched, unloved and unacquired until it was discovered and published recently (and is now nominated for the World Fantasy Award). It concerns an old woman's pets, which are made from the surgically engineered extremities of her own body. It is a murder story, too. Its psychological implications, if you think about it, are enormous. It is a superb notion. I am delighted that "The Amorous Adventures of Hogfoot Right" are soon to be thrust upon us. The mind it does boggle.

I've known Garry since 1975. I still cheer every time he tells me that his first published story ("Let's Go to Golgotha") has been reprinted or translated into yet *another* language. On last count I think it's up to twenty (plus a play version) and the story is taught in schools! It still took me until the eighties to realise that he is a poet, too. with a small press publication



Tree Messiah to his name. He is not yet acknowledged as a poet; he is talked about for his short stories; his novels are certain to be reappraised after the publication, this coming Spring, of the breathtaking *Hunter's Moon*. It is not easy to make a quick mark in this naive and competitive genre. But Garry persists, in the manner of the hound from his poem "Thorns":

The hawthorns knit across my path
and rake my legs, and yet my hound
runs through their nets without a scratch -
this is the way with bold and cautious movers.

Robert Holdstock

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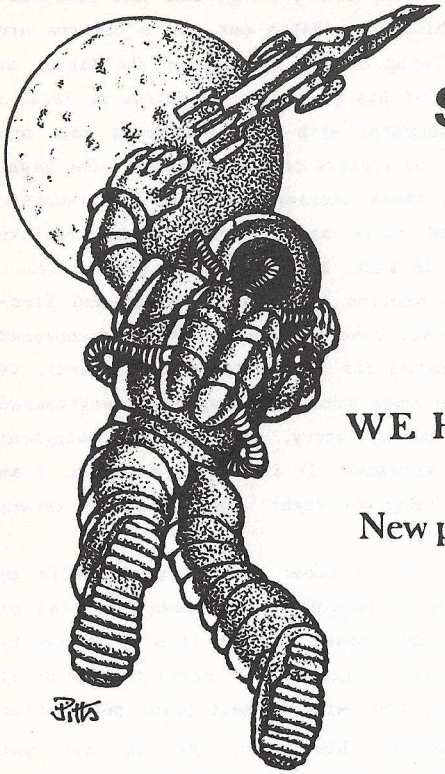

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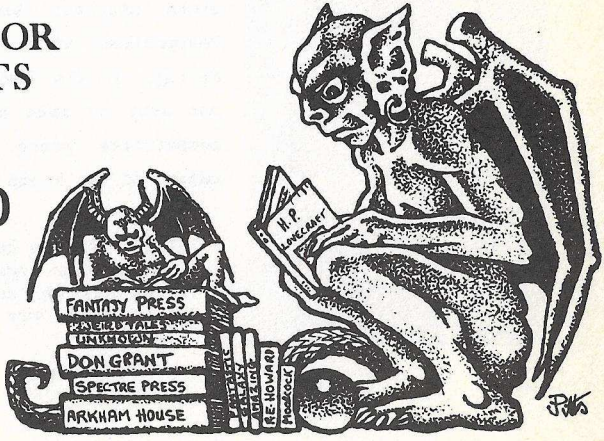
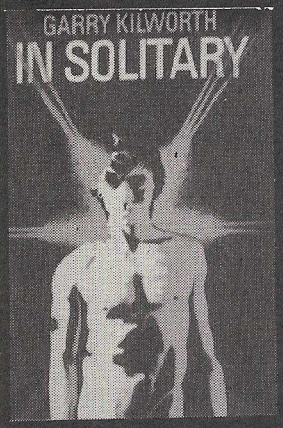
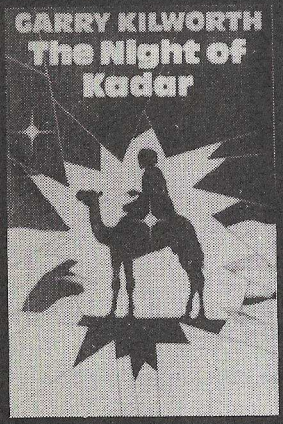
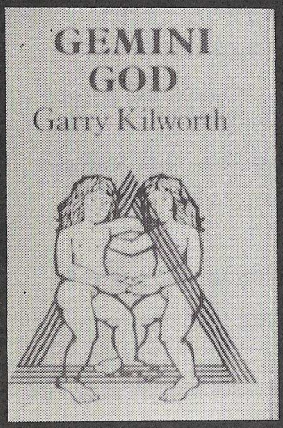








Garry Kilworth - A Bibliography

Information for this bibliography supplied in date order by Garry Kilworth and transferred to alphabetical order by Rog Peyton (who is entirely to blame if anything got missed in the process!). First editions/appearances only listed.

Translations are shown after each item. The following abbreviations have been used:-

C - Czechoslovakian	*D - Danish*	*F - French*
G - German	*H - Hungarian*	*J - Japanese*
P - Polish	*Pg - Portuguese*	*S - Spanish*

ABANDONATI (Unwin Hyman - forthcoming Nov 1988). Novel.

CLOUDROCK (Unwin Hyman 1988). Novel.

GEMINI GOD (Faber 1981). Novel. [Trans: G,Pg]

HIGHLANDER (Grafton 1986). Novelisation under pseudonym 'Garry Douglas'. [Trans: H]

HUNTER'S MOON (Unwin Hyman - forthcoming spring 1989). Novel.

IN SOLITARY (Faber 1977). Novel. [Trans: G,P]

IN THE HOLLOW OF THE DEEP-SEA WAVE (Bodley Head - forthcoming early 1989). Not SF. Novel and seven short stories.

THE NIGHT OF KADAR (Faber 1978). Novel. [Trans: G,J]

THE RAIN GHOSTS (Hippo - forthcoming spring 1989). Novel for younger readers.

THE SONGBIRDS OF PAIN (Gollancz 1984). Collection - items 7,31,5,22,19,37,32,25,18,1,12,28 and 34 from the list below. [Trans: F]

SPIRAL WINDS (Bodley Head 1987). Novel.

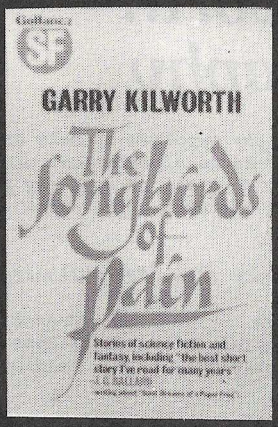
SPLIT SECOND (Faber 1979). Novel. [Trans: G]

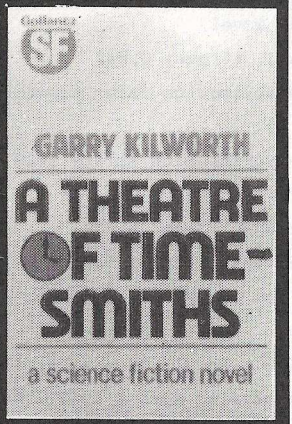
THE STREET (Grafton 1988). Novel under pseudonym 'Garry Douglas'.

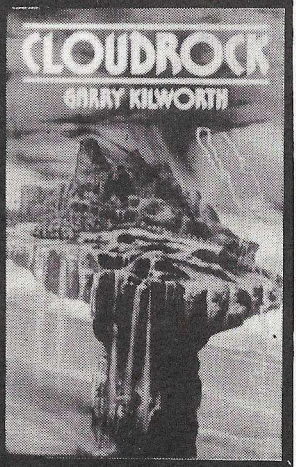
A THEATRE OF TIMESMITHS (Gollancz 1984). Novel. [Trans: G,F,Pg]

TREE MESSIAH (Envoi 1985). Poetry.

TRIVIAL TALES (Birmingham SF Group 1988). Collection of 3 original stories - items 6,40 and 43 from the list below.







THE VOYAGE OF THE VIGILANCE (Dragon - forthcoming Dec 1988). Novel for younger readers.

WITCHWATER COUNTRY (Bodley Head 1986). Novel.

THE WIZARD OF WOODWORLD (Dragon 1987). Novel for younger readers.

SHORT STORIES

1 Almost Heaven
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Feb 1982 [Trans; F]

2 Angel's Eyes
TWILIGHT ZONE Aug 1986

3 Beyond Byzantium
WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION PROGRAMME BOOK 1988

4 The Black Wedding
OTHER EDENS ed by Robert Holdstock and Christopher Evans (Unwin Hyman 1987) [Trans; J]

5 Blind Windows
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Jul 1982 [Trans; F]

6 The Cave
TRIVIAL TALES (Birmingham SF Group 1988)

7 The Dissemblers
INTERZONE No 3 (1983) [Trans; F]

8 Doppelganger
INTERZONE No 21 (1987)

9 The Earth is Flat and We'd All Like to Drown
TALES FROM THE FORBIDDEN PLANET ed by Roz Kaveney (Titan 1987)

10 Feral Moon
FICTION MAGAZINE Jul/Aug 1987

11 The Final Assassin
ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE Jan 1985

12 God's Cold Lips
ARIES 1 ed by John Grant (David & Charles 1979) [Trans; F]

13 *Grenzkrieg*
SF STORY READER No 12 ed by Herbert W Franke (Heyne 1979) [*German only - no English language version*]

14 Hobblythick Lane
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Jul 1986

15 Hogfoot Right and Birdhands
OTHER EDENS ed by Robert Holdstock and Christopher Evans (Unwin Hyman 1987) [Trans; J]

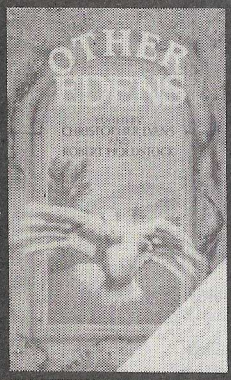
16 The House That Joachim Jakober Built
BEYOND THE LANDS OF NEVER ed by Maxim Jakubowski (Allen & Unwin 1984)

17 Image in a Dark Glass
TWILIGHT ZONE Aug 1985

18 The Invisible Foe
ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE Jan 1982 [Trans; F]

19 Let's Go to Golgotha
SUNDAY TIMES WEEKLY REVIEW 15/12/74 [Trans; P,S,D,F]

20 The Lights of the City
PETER DAVISON'S BOOK OF ALIEN MONSTERS ed by Peter Davison (Sparrow 1982)



21 The Looking-glass Man
OMNI Mar 1988

22 Lord of the Dance
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Nov 1980 [Trans; F]

23 The Lost Garden of Enid Blyton, Lucy Atwell, Beatrix Potter and the Rest of the Lads of the 32nd Parachute Regiment
ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE Mar 1985

24 Love Child
15TH FONTANA BOOK OF GREAT HORROR STORIES ed by Mary Danby (Fontana 1982)

25 The Man Who Collected Bridges
AMAZING SF May 1980 [Trans; F]

26 Murderer's Walk
OTHER EDENS ed by Robert Holdstock and Christopher Evans (Unwin Hyman 1987) [Trans; J]

27 On the Watchtower at Plataea
OTHER EDENS 2 ed by Robert Holdstock and Christopher Evans (Unwin Hyman 1988)

28 Oubliette
AMBIT No 90 (1982) [Trans; F]

29 Paper Moon
OMNI Jan 1986

30 Reaching Out
SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY Vol 3 No 3 (1976)

31 The Rose Bush
AD ASTRA No 13 (1981) [Trans; C,F]

32 Scarlet Fever
EXTRO Vol 1 No 3 (1982) [Trans; C,F]

33 The Silent Voices
WRITER'S REVIEW (1969)

34 The Songbirds of Pain
OMNI Aug 1985 [Trans; F,C]

35 The Soul of Colonel 607
GOLLANCZ/SUNDAY TIMES BEST SF STORIES (1975)

36 Spiral Winds
INTERZONE No 9 (1985) [Trans; F]

37 Sumi Dreams of a Paper Frog
EXTRO Vol 1 No 1 (1982) [Trans; F]

38 Thunder of the Captains
ISAAC ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE Jun 1985

39 Toomey's Circus
AD ASTRA No 6 (1981)

40 The Town
TRIVIAL TALES (Birmingham SF Group 1988)

41 The Tryst
19TH FONTANA BOOK OF GREAT GHOST STORIES ed by R Chetwynd-Hayes (Fontana 1983)

42 The Vivarium
INTERZONE 15 (1986)

43 The Wall
TRIVIAL TALES (Birmingham SF Group 1988)

44 A Warrior Falls
PULSAR 2 ed by George Hay (Penguin 1979)

History of NOVACON

	HOTEL	GUEST OF HONOUR	CHAIRMAN	COMMITTEE	ATTENDANCE*
1	Imperial Centre	JAMES WHITE	Vernon Brown	Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate.	144
2	Imperial Centre	DOREEN ROGERS	Pauline Dungate	Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer.	144
3	Imperial Centre	KEN BULMER	Hazel Reynolds	Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman.	146
4	Imperial Centre	KEN SLATER	Dr Jack Cohen	Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds.	211
5	Royal Angus	DAN MORGAN	Rog Peyton	Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton.	272
6	Royal Angus	DAVE KYLE	Stan Eling	Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton.	317
7	Royal Angus	JOHN BRUNNER	Stan Eling	Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford.	278
8	Holiday Inn	ANNE McCAFFREY	Laurence Miller	Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright.	309
9	Royal Angus	CHRISTOPHER PRIEST	Rog Peyton	Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd.	290
10	Royal Angus	BRIAN W ALDISS	Rog Peyton	Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton.	495
11	Royal Angus	BOB SHAW	Paul Oldroyd	Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phill Probert.	362
12	Royal Angus	HARRY HARRISON	Rog Peyton	Chris Baker, David Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phill Probert.	373
13	Royal Angus	LISA TUTTLE	Phill Probert	Chris Donaldson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Eunice Pearson, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes.	339
14	Grand	ROB HOLDSTOCK	Steve Green	Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phill Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent.	333
15	De Vere, Coventry	JAMES WHITE DAVE LANGFORD	Phill Probert	Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor.	340
16	De Vere, Coventry	E C TUBB CHRIS EVANS	Tony Berry	Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter.	257
17	Royal Angus	IAIN BANKS	Bernie Evans	Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams.	315
18	Royal Angus	GARRY KILWORTH	Tony Berry	Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor	

* This attendance figure taken from Con Members listed in Programme Book and is NOT the complete total.

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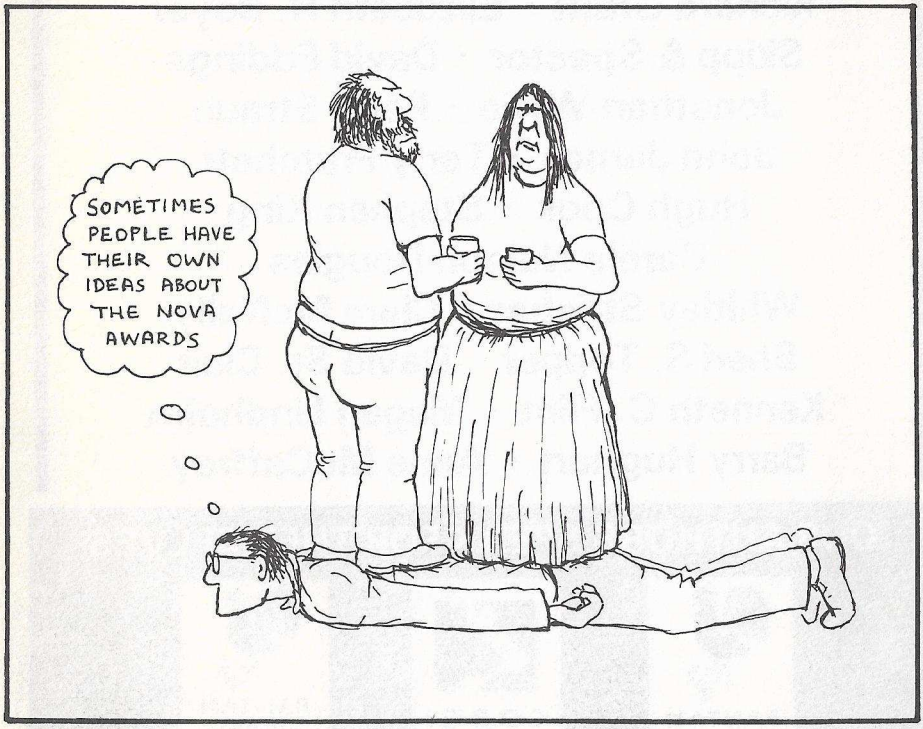
In Progress Report 2 you were informed about the GCSE 'test' this weekend. With this Programme Book you should receive a sheet of instructions, a sheet of questions and an answer sheet. If you cannot find them, ask at the Convention Registration Desk NOW.

Before starting on the question paper, read the instruction sheet thoroughly and please do as it says - it's to everyone's benefit if you do so - especially as a messed-up answer paper will lose you a certificate and a chance of a book prize.

If you do have any difficulty find Vernon Brown, buy him a drink or six and he will help you (even if you don't have any difficulty, he'll still accept a drink!). If you cannot find him try the Registration Desk but in either case don't leave things too late - answer papers must be handed in for marking by late Saturday afternoon.

Enjoy the weekend, have fun with the test - and Good Luck.

Vernon Brown



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Gregory Benford · Douglas Winter
Harry Harrison · Lyndon Hardy
R.A. MacAvoy · Elizabeth Scarborough
Jack Cady · Clive Barker
Thomas Tessier · John Saul · David Brin
Judith Tarr · Diana Henstell
Jennifer Roberson · M. John Harrison
Richard Grant · Elizabeth H. Boyer
Skipp & Spector · David Eddings
Jonathan Wylie · Peter Straub
John James · Terry Pratchett
Hugh Cook · Stephen King
Carole Nelson Douglas
Whitley Strieber · Clare McNally
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Kenneth C. Flint · Megan Lindholm
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William C Dietz
John Farris
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Alan Dean Foster
Stephen Gallagher
Robert A Heinlein
Frank Herbert
James Herbert
P C Hodgell
Stephen King
Richard Laymon
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Michael Moorcock
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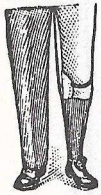

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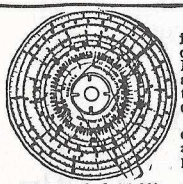

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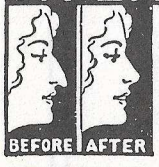

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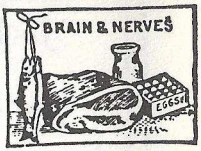

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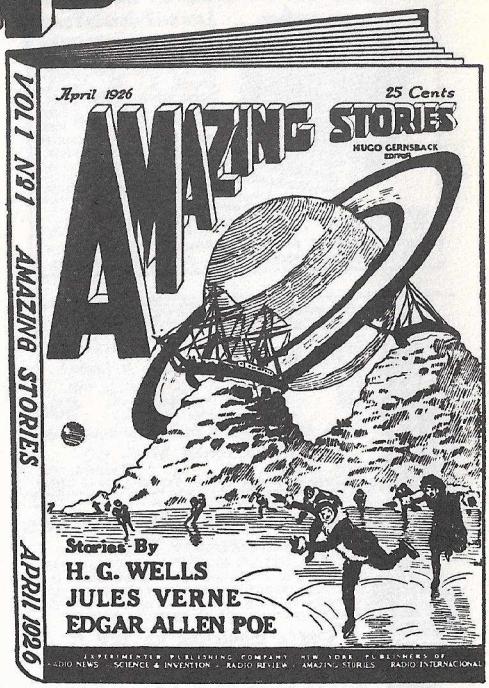

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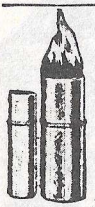

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HAZEL ASHWORTH
The Road to Hell

"As I'm sure you will recall," said Tony Berry, "the highlight of your existence was to win the Nova Award last year." Too true. When I heard that I'd won, I exploded into a thousand incandescent pieces of glee - went Nova, in fact. It seemed a small thing to write something for the NOVACON 18 Programme Book, with all of three month's grace; but *little did I realise* my endless capacity to prevaricate...

****

AUGUST 10th: Contributions to LIP 4 drift through my mailbox in desultory fashion, singly, with large intervals, like reluctant boaters rowing in to land when their number has been called. I send encouraging postcards to Nigel Richardson with messages on the back - "WHERE IS IT?" - and pictures of tasteful nudes and/or duplicators on the front. A reply comes one postal strike and two weeks later. "Have *started* an article for you. Have started *three* articles for you, in fact. All of them have got bogged down in the usual mire of..." I'm treated to a wildly inventive range of excuses including everything bar Blackwater Fever on the Isles of Langerhans, and stare gloomily out of the window at the dark Yorkshire rain.

I privately suspect that everyone with two beanies to rub together is preparing to go to New Orleans: it must only be about two weeks before the Worldcon. The more dynamic British fans of my acquaintance are thinking, maybe, it's time to check whether their passports are still valid, and perhaps even apply for their US visas.

But what about *me*? *I'm* not going to America. By the looks of things I'll be lucky to get as far as Bradford. And a summer staying at home ain't no summer at all.

AUGUST 12th: The glorious. All the upper-crusties will be out massacring the winged wildlife in a freezing moorland gale today. I almost envy them. At least there is a definite period to their time of waiting... Kaplunk, kaplunk! Dead grouse? No, the sound of the mail. I tear open the envelopes. At last a brace of fat juicy contributions, enough to make your mouth water, stuffed full of private confessions, public confessioins, angst, scandal, angry locs. At last and all at once. It's more than I can handle; I dream of subordinate editorial teams, beavering away while I go off on my holidays. From the sweltering south, relatives grumble over the telephone at me. "I thought you'd be down by now,"

they say. It's tricky to explain that one's er, um, hobby requires one to hover by the front door every day, attending the post.

AUGUST 13th: Inspiration: visit relatives, but demand use of their typewriters! This means that I can still go away but can nevertheless Catch Up With Everything before the guilt-load reaches critical mass and I awake at 4am fulfilling real deadlines with imaginary *tours de force* (which is quite as exhausting as actually doing the writing and not nearly as satisfactory). I pack my suitcase. No loud shorts or American Express Cards for me. Instead I cram in as large a bundle of stencils as I can, together with rough paper, pencils and pens, rubbers and ink, an envelope of all the locs that can be retreived from the 'filing system' (two carrier bags and a cardboard box), and *another* envelope containing Pressing Correspondence and Things I Should Have Done Ages Ago. This last package is the frightening one, and if ever I feel the need for a rush of adrenalin, I flick through the dreadful contents and my system is immediately galvanised into the 'flight or fight' - or flight or *write* - mode.

AUGUST 14th: Sitting on the Intercity 125. Realise I have forgotten Corfu and typewriter cleaner-brush. Keep fingers crossed they have these in the south.

AUGUST 16th: Arrange papers on beautiful uncluttered desk in beautiful uncluttered study. Play with electric typewriter and anglepoise lamp, watch squirrels from window. Peace shattered somewhat by the discovery of my NOVACON application form still in with locs. Have visions of sleeping in hammock slung between concrete bollards outside the hotel.

AUGUST 17th: Holiday euphoria dented further by discovering letter from Tony dated early May, asking nicely for article for Programme Book. Have nasty feeling I said yes.

AUGUST 20th: Vow to get on with everything before the NOVACON People realise I haven't done anything. Sister buggers up good intentions by finding that there's still some Ponche Caballero *and* some Amaretto in the booze cupboard.

AUGUST 21st: Reel awful.

AUGUST 22nd: Still feeling vicious. The law of the jungle rules yet: Nag or Be Nagged. Decide to banish uncomfy feeling that Tony might be remembering my existence by doing some editorial arm-twisting on my own account. There are, still, some incorrigible persons around who have failed to cough up with their

promised masterpieces. The time for gentle prods and promises of untold goodies is *long* past. I mull over the feasability of copying the intimidatory tactics of the Electricity Board, and use menacing upper-case letters, in red: "UNLESS YOU... ...YOU WILL BE CUT OFF." But since there is, unfortunately, only one of me I guess I reduce the threat to "...BITS OF YOU WILL BE...", etc.
I feel a lot better after doing this. Happiness marred only by the thought that Mr Berry might be preparing to do the same to me. Relieved have left no forwarding address.

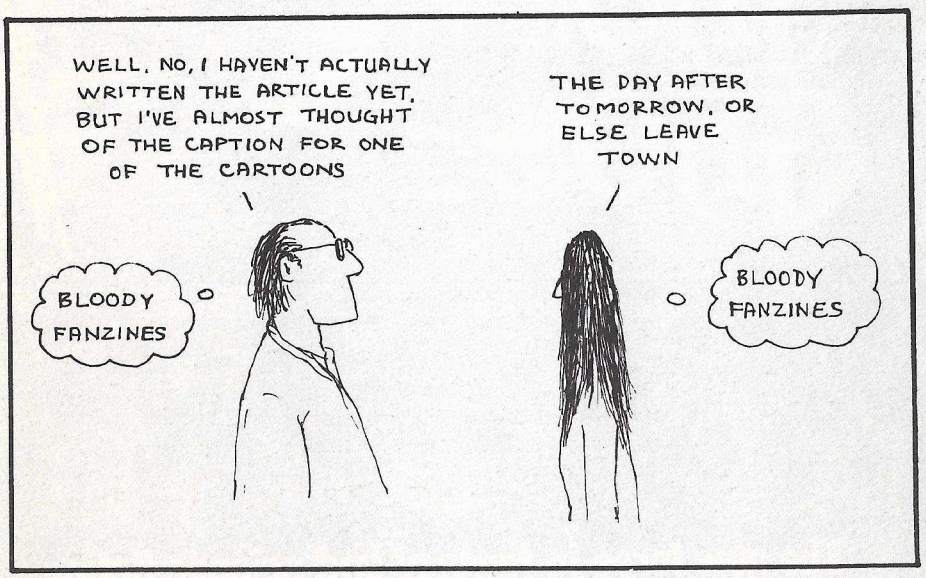
AUGUST 25th: Hear by telephone that The Game Is Up. Grapevine has it NOVACON Chairman on warpath.

AUGUST 26th: Flee to Devon, sunbathe and think about doing something. However, feel quite safe as it's Bank Holiday Weekend and no one can get through the post until at least Tuesday.

AUGUST 30th: I write something!

AUGUST 31st: National Postal Strike. Are they trying to be funny? Sunbathe some more. Wonder how they're getting on in Yorkshire and New Orleans. Sympathise with Tony in spirit, if not on the telephone. Declares Devon a Nag-free Zone. Who cares about being famous?

Hazel Ashworth



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the Committee

Putting a Convention Programme Book together is always a difficult job. Anyone who has ever tackled this thankless (but personally satisfying) chore will almost certainly tell you that providing information on the committee is the most difficult item to obtain. Usually, this task falls to the Chairman, who doesn't always know his committee well enough to report facts unknown to fandom at large. This time, the Chairman knows his committee only too well! So thankfully he has resorted to the easy option and asked each committee member to write their own thing. This ploy doesn't always work (and in one case here, it almost hasn't!). Resisting the temptation to put editor's comments throughout each piece, we present here a selection of 'autobiographical articles' by each committee member. The Editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed herein.
So what about our chairman, Tony Berry, eh?

I started in the distant past reading juvenile SF and worked my way up to 'Doc' Smith (still find the *Kemlo* books difficult). Got into Fandom by way of the Leeds University SF Society and the Leeds Group, closely followed by my first convention - YORCON 1 in 1979. Then joined the BSFG and found that people like Dave Holmes actually existed. I've attended quite a few cons since then and I STILL read SF. A couple of years ago I discovered that comics weren't just for kids after reading *Dark Knight* and *Swamp Thing*, so now I waste my money on those as well. I've written the (very) occasional fanzine, was in an APA for a while and, in a moment of weakness, got involved in conrunning. This will be the second NOVACON I have chaired (must see a shrink about this masochism), as well as being on the committee of another, and helping out with the Fan Programme and Fanroom at CONSPIRACY (where's my pickaxe handle...).

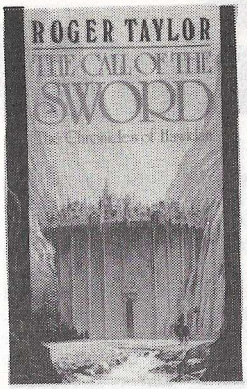
Likes: Music, movies, real ale, Chinese food, Garfield, chocolate Hob-nobs.

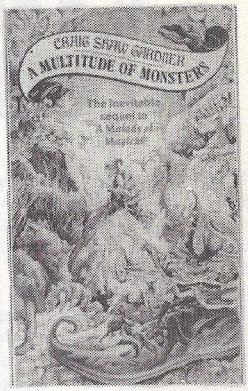
Hates: People who finish a sentence for you when you're talking to them, Jonathan Ross, joining the queue that has the slow cashier or the till which breaks down when it's my turn, not owning a time machine or even a lousy FTL spaceship.

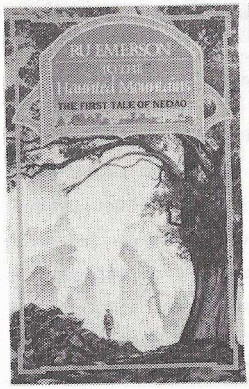
Thank you Tony. Know what you mean about Jonathan Ross...but - a Chairman that reads kiddies' comics...! Oh well, perhaps the rest of our committee w..ll fill you with more confidence. What about Bernie Evans....?

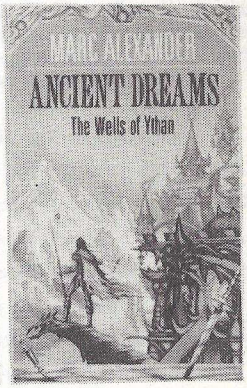
THE NEW NAME IN FANTASY

HEADLINE









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interests went beyond being able to name all seven dwarves. I was promptly invited along to their weekly SF meetings where I was fascinated by the fact that SF was hardly ever mentioned while the latest feud brewing with a rival New Orleans skiffy group was the hot topic. I could never resist a good soap opera so dived right into fandom feet first by attending the 76 Worldcon in Kansas City which lead to more and more con attending until I found myself at SEACON 79 which changed my life forever as they say. Since living in Britain I've dabbled in bits of everything from writing for fanzines and apas to organising cons like MEXICON and the fan items of the recent worldcon, CONSPIRACY.

Favourite colour: purple.

Likes: Japanese films and comics.

Hates: slugs in my garden.

Secret Love: Pee Wee Herman.

Comics...again! Oh, come on now.... These are supposed to be adult people on this committee. Aren't they? OK, have it your own way. So, let's have a real sensible, long, in-depth study from Greg Pickersgill...

My story is so typical it's too boring to go into; started reading SF as a kid blah gosh wow blah nose always in a book blah blah. Skip all the bits in Linda's bio that have to do with New Orleans and trivia, put in that my first con was THIRDMANCON in Buxton in 1968 and take out the bit about Pee Wee Herman and that's my story.

Er...that's it, Greg? Your favourite colour is purple? You hate slugs in the garden? Those I can believe...but liking comics! This from a worthy winner of the Doc Weir Award? A man who holds the respect of SF fandom? Supporter of intelligent discussion? COMICS! Get out of here! Come on, then, let's get sensible and hear from Martin Tudor.

Other than being an unemployed, alcoholic, ex-Post Office clerk, I have served on a few ccon committees including NOVACONs 14 and 15, MEXICON III, SEACON 84 and CONSPIRACY 87. The first fandom I was involved in was comics but I entered SF fandom through the BSFA and BSFG back in 1979, attending my first convention, NOVACON 10, a year later. I've edited the BSFG newsletter for a year, published ten issues of my fanzine EMPTIES and been a member of three APAs. I like Murphy's stout, Marston's Pedigree, Love and Rockets, Bad films, Philip K Dick and many other things. I dislike large American fans called Mike Glyer and most current fantasy fiction. I hate keg beer, Australian soaps and soap stars (of any nationality) who think they can sing.

Bloody comics, again! Well, we ALL read comics when we were young, I admit. But surely we grow out of them as we learn to interpret words, rather than pictures and balloons! Not so sure about Bad films either

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I was born in 1946, in Oldham, Lancs. I first became interested in SF at infant school, reading comics and watching 50s B movies. I cut my book-reading teeth on mythology, Greek, Roman, Norse and the Arthurian legends, as that was all I could get hold of at school. I moved on to Badger Books (yes, honestly!), then the Golden Age stuff - Asimov, Clarke, Heinlein.

I'm currently enjoying Mike Resnick, Kevin O'Donnell Jr., Bob Shaw, Dann/Dozois anthologies, Storm Constantine and James White, especially James White.

I enjoy collecting 50s and 60s paperbacks, mainly for the covers, and in particular Badger Books and Ace Doubles. I have a complete set of *2000 AD*.

I moved to Birmingham in December 1964 and have lived here ever since. I knew Dave Holmes and Rog and ANDROMEDA through playing darts with Dave in my local, but never knew about Fandom.

I got into Fandom via Steve Green and the Solihull GRoup. It was Steve who brought me to my first Brum Group meeting in late 1980/early 1981, I forget exactly. Jack Cohen was speaking, Dave Holmes (who I'd lost touch with during my ill-fated first marriage) was there. I was hooked.

The first convention I went to was NOVACON 11. I managed to keep out of organising things for quite a long time, but Rog Peyton is nothing if not persistent, and I became Brum Group publicity officer in Jan 85, for two years. I chaired FIFTEENCON in mid-86 and chaired NOVACON 17 in 1987. I'm chairing the Brum Group this year.

Dislike: doing what I'm told, hence my first....

Like: chairing committees (how did you guess), Heavy Metal music (plus rock and sixties stuff), knitting, doting on two grandchildren, and collecting unicorns (models) and Cats (live ones! - four so far, plus a regular visitor from next door).

Wow! A grandmother who likes Heavy Metal and got into SF through, of all things, Badger Books.... And I have a sneaking suspicion that 2000 AD *is a comic! Now look, I know the Brum Group is considered as something out of the ordinary in fandom, but somehow, I have difficulty believing all this. Oh, well - two down, four to go. Maybe Linda Pickersgill, our one foreigner on the committee, can restore your faith.*

My story is so typical it's too boring to go into; started reading SF as a kid blah gosh wow blah nose always in a book blah blah. The first con I attended was a '74 Trek con in New Orleans that I heard about on the radio. I spent all my time in the film room, then bought a David Gerrold book and a tribble. I didn't link up with fandom until a year later as part of a trivia society team. I was the team expert on comics which alerted a rival team that my

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(on a par with comics, in my opinion...) but anyone who likes Real Ale has to be a Good Guy... And he hates the current spate of fantasy fiction! And that just about winds it up except for yours truly...

Born in 1942, married in 1968 and carelessly lost most of hair by the mid 70s. Despite reading Capt W E Johns' space adventures, DAN DARE, CAPTAIN CONDOR, listening to JOURNEY INTO SPACE and watching QUATERMASS as a youngster, and then working through H G Wells and John Wyndham, I didn't realise what I was enjoying until I read Asimov's FOUNDATION and spotted the advert in the back - 'Other science fiction you will enjoy...'

Wanted to talk about this wonderful stuff so much I advertised locally and founded the Birmingham SF Group in 1961. Attended my first convention in Peterborough in 1964, after which there was no turning back. Edited VECTOR for two years and was on committee of BRUMCON 65. The original Brum Group burned itself out but in 1971, after organising EASTERCON at Worcester with Pete Weston and Vernon Brown, the three of us relaunched the current BSFG. I packed up my job and started ANDROMEDA. Now, after 25 years of fandom, attending over 100 conventions, being on the committee of over a dozen conventions, over 15 years on the Brum Group committee, I'm beginning to understand why I lost my hair. I have just realised one of my Great Ambitions - designing and publishing a book. Drunken Dragon Press was launched in September. Buy your copy of Dave Langford's latest at this convention, folks! Sorry, no discounts.

Likes: Music (above all else), Chinese food, Jonathan Carroll novels, Indian food, Cheryl Ladd, Thai food, Real Ale, Italian food, Ann-Margret, French food, Russ Meyer movies, Spanish food, DALLAS, English food, Cornell Woolrich mysteries, good food and wine.

Dislikes: Comics (oh, you guessed), Shakespeare, organised religion, apprentice sorcerers who, for no apparent reason, go on a quest with a telepathic gnome and win a magic sword, marry a beautiful princess and find they're the bastard son of a recently deceased monarch who put it around so much, the princess is probably his half-sister!

Musical likes: Jerry Lee Lewis, Lee Hazlewood, Juice Newton, Rosanne Cash, Pure Prairie League, Bonnie Tyler, Heart, Rachmaninov (among others).

Musical hates: Beatles (and other Liverpool clones), Cliff Richard & Shadows, Gilbert & Sullivan, Beach Boys, 1812 Overture.

Well, there you have it - a bald, purple, alcoholic committee that reads comics and Badger books, watches DALLAS, eats anything and everything except slugs and dotes on its grandchildren. (Now why didn't I ask an artist to draw that strange creature!) Should be a good con...

Rog Peyton

The NOVA Awards

The NOVA is an award for fanzines produced by *science fiction fandom* in the British Isles. Created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field and presented annually at the Birmingham Science Fiction Group's NOVACON. The NOVA was, until 1981 given to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best of the Year'. From 1973 to 1976 the NOVA winner was decided by a select panel of judges chosen for their knowledge of fandom.

But in 1977, whilst the NOVACON committee persuaded the ultra select NOVA committee that a more democratic system would be more appropriate, an inebriated Stan Eling persuaded an even more inebriated Dave Langford to draw up a set of rules to govern the new democratic system. The result of all this was, in Kev Smith's words, "the three volume presentation set of NOVA Award rules with the seven appendices". These rules provide for an Administrator (responsible for printing and distributing the ballot forms) and a Committee (who are responsible for assessing the eligibility of votes cast and counting them).

The next major change to the NOVA came in 1981, again at the request of the NOVACON committee, when it was decided to extend the NOVA to include two additional categories - 'Best Fanwriter' and 'Best Fanartist'.

The most recent change to the NOVA Award rules came shortly after Novacon 16, when, after much discussion between the current NOVA Administrator, NOVA committee and numerous interested fans, it was decided to amend the rules so that for the first time 'one-off' fanzines became eligible for the award. As the rules now stand, for a fanzine to qualify, *one* or more isues must have appeared between the 1st of October 1987 and the 30th of September 1988. For fanwriter and fanartists to qualify, a piece of writing or artwork by the person concerned must have been published for the first time between the 1st of October 1987 and the 30th of September 1988, in a fanzine. For the purpose of this award a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with science fiction, fantasy, science fiction and fantasy fans and/or related subjects, and copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment.

The fundamental idea of the NOVA, as run since 1977, is that it should be awarded by informed vote. Informed votes come from informed voters, defined as NOVACON members, attending or supporting, who have been active in fanzines sometime in the year preceding the relevant NOVACON. 'Active in fanzines' is a bit harder to define, but for the sake of clarity the NOVA committee decided, after NOVACON 16, to alter the NOVA Award Rules. For the purpose of these awards, 'to be active in fanzines' now means to have received six or more fanzines during the course of the relevant year. 'Fanzines', in this instance, means DIFFERENT PUBLICATIONS and NOT different issues of the same fanzine. The various official organs of a group or society shall not be treated as different fanzines for the purpose of this rule.

These criteria were not designed to be prohibitive, and in these days of alleged falling fanzine productivity, they allow a large proportion of NOVACON members to vote. So if you consider yourself to be a fanzine fan, please USE YOUR VOTE! By doing so, you will help to make the awards truly representative of fanzine fandom.

As for the NOVA Award itself, every year has seen a different design. The first award was created by Gillon Field. Since then it has been designed and made by Birmingham's own Ray Bradbury.

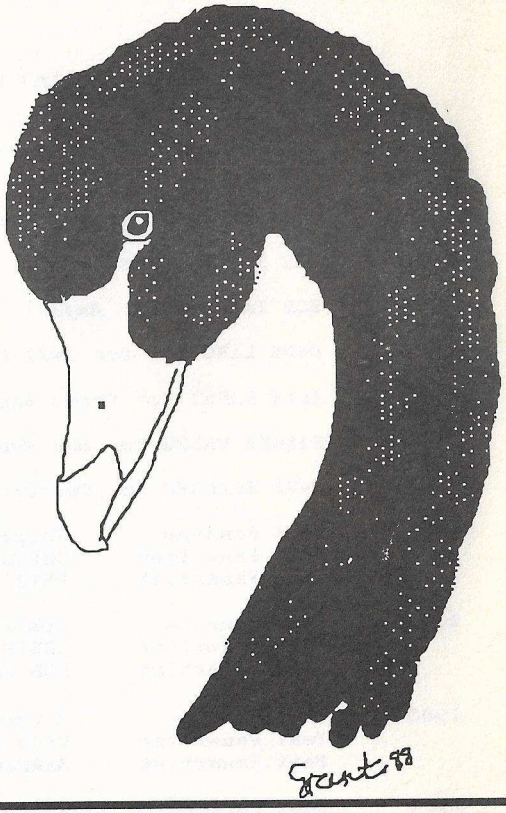
Any queries about the NOVA Awards should be directed to the new NOVA Administrator - Pam Wells, 24a Beech Road, Bowes Park, London N11 2DA.

Martin Tudor

PAST NOVA AWARD WINNERS

1973	PETER WESTON for *Speculation*	
1974	LISA CONESA for *Zimri*	
	JOHN BROSNAN for *Big Scab*	
1975	ROB JACKSON for *Maya*	
1976	ROB JACKSON for *Maya*	
1977	DAVE LANGFORD for *Twll-Ddu*	
1978	ALAN DOREY for *Gross Encounters*	
1979	SIMONE WALSH for *Sea Monsters*	
1980	DAVE BRIDGES for *One-Off*	
1981	Best Fanzine	*Tappen* by MALCOLM EDWARDS
	Best Fanwriter	CHRIS ATKINSON
	Best Fanartist	PETE LYON
1982	Best Fanzine	*Epsilon* by ROB HANSEN
	Best Fanwriter	CHRIS ATKINSON
	Best Fanartist	ROB HANSEN
1983	Best Fanzine	*A Cool Head* by DAVE BRIDGES
	Best Fanwriter	DAVE BRIDGES
	Best Fanartist	MARGARET WELBANK
1984	Best Fanzine	*Xyster* by DAVE WOOD
	Best Fanwriter	ANNE HAMILL WARREN
	Best Fanartist	D WEST
1985	Best Fanzine	*Prevert* by JOHN JARROLD
	Best Fanwriter	ABI FROST
	Best Fanartist	ROS CALVERLEY
1986	Best Fanzine	*Pink Fluffy Bedsocks Publications* by OWEN WHITEOAK
	Best Fanwriter	OWEN WHITEOAK
	Best Fanartist	ARTHUR 'ATOM' THOMSON
1987	Best Fanzine	*Lip* by HAZEL ASHWORTH
	Best Fanwriter	D WEST
	Best Fanartist	D WEST

THE Swancon for 94



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173 Harry Bell
209 Tony Benson
003 Tony Berry
246 Sarah Biggs
302 Matt Bishop
057 Ann Blackburn
272 Karen Blaylock
320 Harry Bond
120 Susan Booth
332 Paul Brazier
290 Claire Brialey
012 Tim Broadribb
328 Faith Brooker
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257 Terry Broome
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060 Vernon Brown
312 David Bruce
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170 A Byzantium
169 Yash Byzantium
258 Mark Caldwell
161 Ros Calverley
194 Avedon Carol
116 Susan Chamberlain
304 Mike Cheater
118 Ken Cheslin
152 Mike Christie
123 Alex Clarke
261 Brett Cockrell
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291 Noel Collyer
167 Storm Constantine
279 Alison Cook
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178 Philippa Cottrell
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064 Dave Cox
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088 Martin Reed
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093 Bob Shaw
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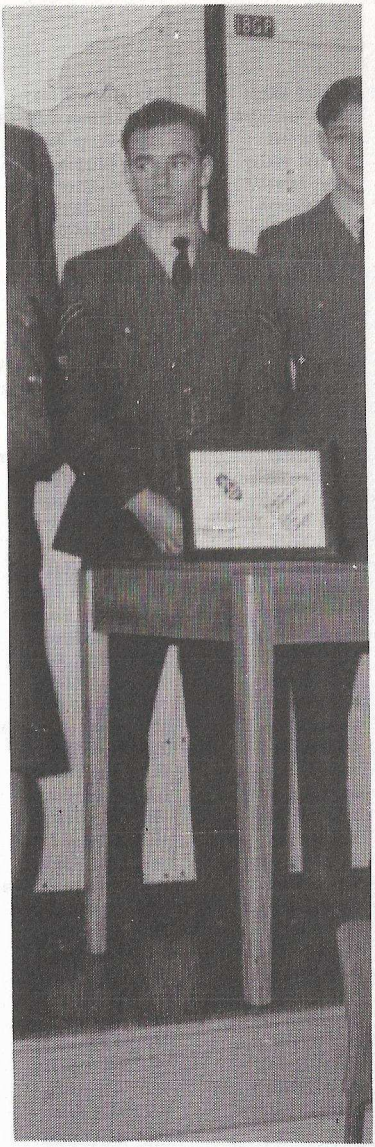
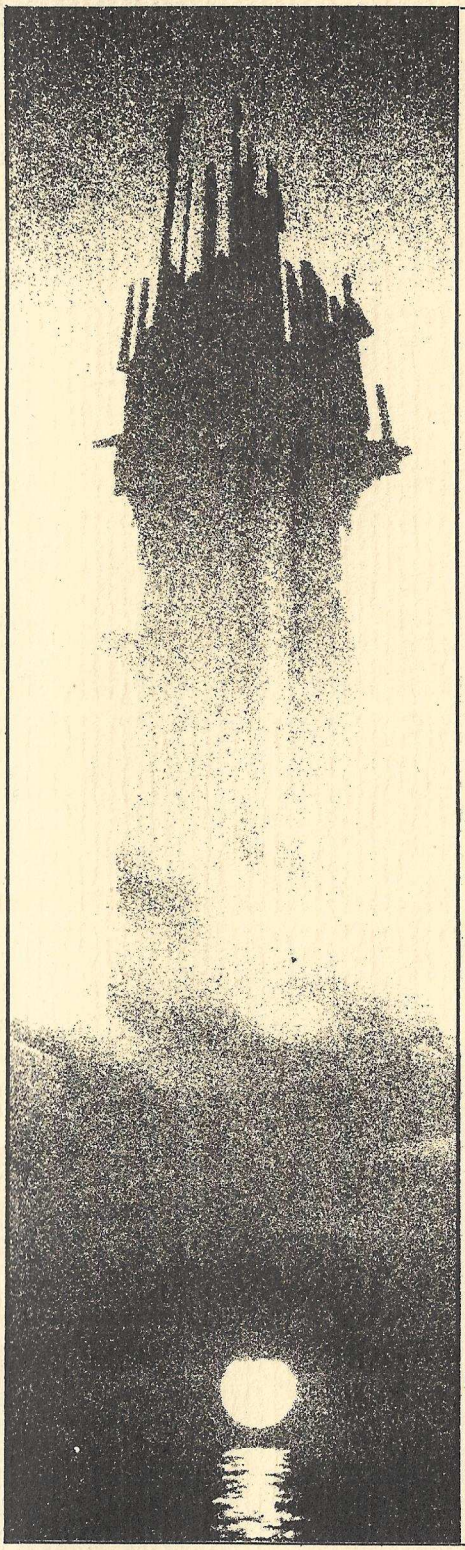
233 Robert Sneddon
238 G Snelling
077 Adrian Snowdon
270 Kate Solomon
265 Ian Sorensen
189 Maki Spanoudis
211 Phil Spencer
318 Helen Spinks
319 John Spinks
251 Brian Stableford
252 Jane Stableford
294 Richard Standish
248 Tim Stannard
043 James Steel
247 Andrew Stephenson
305 Jason Stevens
146 John Steward
127 Alex Stewart
236 Ian Stoker
224 Mike Stone
069 Brian Stovold
180 Robert Stubbs
308 Alan Sullivan
171 Jayie Summers
049 Gill Taylor
071 George Ternent
072 Linda Ternent
078 Dave Thomas
267 Rik Thomas
220 Peter Thompson
155 Ray Thompson
255 Susan Thurston
204 Linda-Claire Tosl
210 Margaret Tout
306 Ivan Towlson
301 Anne Trainor
007 Martin Tudor
122 Mark Valentine
032 Larry Van Der Putte
176 Marion Van Der Voort
175 Richard Van Der Voort
317 Desiree Van Zijl
119 Paul Vincent
295 Wendell Phillip Wagner Jr.
052 David B Wake
053 Helen Wake
063 Dawn Wallace
162 Chris Walton
205 Lesley Ward
039 Peter Wareham
174 Glen Warminger
111 Freda Warrington
149 Garry Webb
058 Pam Wells
326 Wendy
229 Alison Wessells
190 D West
020 Kathy Westhead
019 Mike Westhead
177 Pete Weston
221 Laura Wheatley
231 Elda Wheeler
106 James White
107 Peggy White
025 Owen Whitecak
222 Robert Whitmore
067 Ian Williams
228 Brian Willis
285 Keren Woods
011 Kate Wright
201 Pete Wright
195 Leman Yuen



NOVACON 19 is already in the planning stages. It will almost certainly be at the Angus over the weekend of November 3/5. The Chairman will be Martin Tudor and registrations (£10) will be handled (again) by Bernie Evans at 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7UY. Guest of Honour to be announced. Registrations will be taken on Sunday at this con - register now and avoid postal costs.



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